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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 20, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of Saddam's trial and its significance for Iraqis and all Arabs were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 20, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- [1A.](#) "The Trial"
(Editorial by Abdul Wahab Baderkhan - Iraq 4 All News -
<http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10385>)

"Finally, the trial. Finally Iraqis have the chance to see their dictator in a cage after seeing him brag and boast for thirty years, then disappear after the fall of Baghdad, only to reemerge from a hole and open his mouth for a medical exam. After that he was seen in investigations, and finally in court.

"This is the first Arab president to stand trial in front of his people, answering a long list of charges that do not actually cover all his crimes. He was deposed by the occupation and stands trial today thanks to the occupation-without which he would have been killed long ago. This is the first Arab president to stand trial not only for his crimes, but also for miscalculating foreign policy issues.

"Victims all over Iraq have the right to consider this trial as the start of their legal condolence after all the suffering caused by the previous regime's power and indifference. This suffering had wiped out the word 'justice' from their world; for a long time [Iraqis] felt they were chosen to suffer every injustice in the world, both from their ruler and from U.N. sanctions. Perhaps this trial could be seen as an attempt to set justice back on track.

"Whatever this court does, it can never do Saddam and his colleagues more injustice than what was inflicted on [the Iraqi] people. As for restoring respect for justice, that remains to be seen. It seems that Iraqis currently in power have set unrealistically high standards; unfortunately, we witnessed yesterday a contradiction between the court's vision of the accused and his crime. The criminal was considered normal, but the crime was a 'state crime.'

"There has been an overwhelming desire for unprofessional conduct to undermine the accused, and this might be the reason behind beginning with the Dujail case-and maybe end with it, since the crimes were strictly related to the aggressive bloody psychology of the defendant and not related to any political objective. In all other cases, including the gassing at Halabja, the invasion of Kuwait, and the suppression of the 1991 uprising, it is impossible to avoid politics. No one can talk of mood-related crimes, and this raises the question: How long can these trials continue without showing the fingerprints of U.S. politics?"

- [1B.](#) "Saddam's Trial Should Not Be Personal"
(Editorial by Mahdi Qasim - Kitabat - "Writings" -
http://www.kitabat.com/mahdi_294.htm)

"The tyrant, Saddam Hussein, symbolizes an Arab trend of savageness and barbarianism that dominated the previous era. It is not surprising that this tyrant is still popular among Arab nations and is idolized in some areas, despite the countless number of terrible crimes and atrocities [he committed] that human consciousness cannot even begin to imagine.

"Saddam represented the most extreme pattern of violence and brutality. He spread death and destruction not only in Iraq, but also in neighboring countries through his many Ba'athist wars; despite all of this, they still glorify him and

justify his horrific wars as defending Islam and Arabs-failing to mention that he was the main reason for U.S. troop presence in the Gulf previously, and in Iraq currently, and was a loyal servant to U.S. interests in the Middle East for a while.

"If Saddam was more brutal than other Arab leaders, it does not preclude the fact that they are no different from him in their mentalities of suppressive dictatorship. Many of these rulers have died or stepped out of the spotlight without being tried for their crimes and destructive roles that led to the decline of the Arab nation. Saddam's trial should be a trial for all Arab regimes and dictatorships in the past, present, and future. When Saddam is tried and convicted based on significant evidence, the barbaric type of thinking that sees humans as nothing more than cheap sacrifices should also be convicted.

"Saddam might be sentenced to death or life imprisonment, but sooner or later he will be wiped out from the Arab memory; however, the barbarian mentality he represents will continue to live on in the millions of Arabs who support him. This mentality should be eradicated by exposing his crimes and the nature of his empty personality.

"Let Arabs discover that their historic leader and the symbol of their Arab nation is nothing more than a thug. He might have been a hero in ruining a country like Iraq-a country with deep roots in civilization-that continues to suffer the effects of barbaric policies to this day."

[C. "Saddam in the Prosecution's Cage"](#)
(Editorial by Dr. Ahmed Abdul Allah - Sawt Al-Iraq - "Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=17725>)

"Innocent Iraqis who were victims of Saddam's bloody rule were pleased on October 19, 2005. Saddam tried hard to act and pretend to be a strong man, but his gaze and garbled words showed he was in low spirits and psychologically beaten.

"Saddam led the orchestra that sat with him and announced he was innocent of the Dujail charge! This is shocking for Iraqis because they know what he did in Dujail: starting with mass killings, destruction of the property of the people of Dujail, displacing families and establishing a court of 'revolution' to issue death sentences within several hours and execute the sentences within two days. That is a tragedy that reminds me of Dante's hell!

"Saddam Hussein and Taha Yassin Ramadhan may still be living under their illusions as they struggle to act strong and attract national sympathy. We also might smile mockingly as we hear Saddam's objection to the court's legitimacy. This court was formed according to a law legislated by the elected National Assembly. He violated Iraqi law for decades as he ruled with iron and fire. He killed hundreds of thousands, disabled hundreds of thousands, and caused many others to go missing or to become displaced as they fled Iraq as far as they could to escape his tyranny.

"We do not know if people sympathetic to Saddam's rule have awoken from the shock of seeing their former commander sitting in a cage. This should show the deceived Arabs the truth; they should now believe what millions of Iraqis have been saying-that Saddam's era is gone forever.

"Let this first session be a beginning of trials for anyone who harmed and committed unjust acts against our people. We hope every Iraqi becomes convinced that the new Iraq is standing on the right path and is moving toward democracy and freedom-that is, if it is God's will."

SATTERFIELD